REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 24, 2006. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 remain in this application, of which Claims 1 and 5 are in independent form. Claims 1 and 5-7 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 4 and 8-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 5,908,467 (Barrett et al.), and Claims 3 and 7, as being obvious from *Barrett* in view of U.S. patent 6,78,449 (Sugiarto et al.).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a data processing method for providing data to a terminal from a server via a network. The method comprises an issuing step for issuing a request for data loading from the terminal to the server in response to an instruction by a user, and a completion discrimination step, in which the server discriminates, in response to the request for data loading, whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress. In a first transmission step, there is transmitted, from the server to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed. The server, in a prediction step, predicts an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof is in progress, and in a second transmission step, the predicted end time and information for requesting data loading again at the predicted end time is transmitted from the server to the terminal if the generation of the requested data is in progress. Also, in the method of Claim 1, there is a display step, of the client displaying the requested data or the predicted end time received from the server, and in a re-issuing

step, in a case where the received data includes the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time, the request for data loading from the terminal is re-issued to the server without a further instruction by the user when the predicted end time is reached.

In contrast, *Barrett* relates to finding a hyperlink included in a currently displayed web page, estimating the time to download data of another web page linked to the currently displayed web page, and displaying indicia with a color which is determined according to the estimated time, beside the hyperlink (col. 5, line 35, to col. 6, line 67, and Figs.2 to 5). In the *Barrett* system, however, what is estimated and displayed is only the time to download data without requesting downloading of data. Nothing has been found in *Barrett* that would teach or suggest issuing a request for data loading from a terminal to a server in response to an instruction by a user.

In addition, nothing has been found in *Barrett* that would teach or suggest transmitting the predicted end time and information for requesting data loading again at the predicted end time from the server to the terminal if the generation of the requested data is in progress, and re-issuing of the request for data loading from the terminal to the server without a further instruction by the user when the predicted end time is reached, as also is recited in Claim 1.

For both these reasons, therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable over *Barrett*.

Independent Claim 5 is a system claim corresponding to method Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of independent Claims 1 and 5, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

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